

EDCompass newsletter

News and resources for educators using SMART products

smarttech.com/EDCsubscribe

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome

"Because SMART Notebook™ software incorporates everything in one area, it's so easy to use. I grab images or video from the Gallery, use the links to jump to a website, create concept maps and build worksheets. My lesson bank in SMART Notebook software is really a work in progress. Every day I add more to it." – Corry Thompson

Corry is just one of many educators using SMART Notebook collaborative learning software to create and teach innovative lessons. To do so requires relevant, appropriate and interactive digital resources. At SMART, we offer subject-specific, curriculum-correlated resources to meet the needs of you and your students. This issue of the newsletter focuses on the wide range of resources available on our website. And on pages [6 and 7](#), we spotlight our newest SMART Board™ interactive whiteboard that will bring your lessons to a whole new level.

Have you already subscribed to this free, monthly e-newsletter from SMART? If not, it's easy to sign up on our website at smarttech.com/EDCsubscribe. And as always, if you have any comments about the newsletter or any of the information featured in this issue, we'd love to hear from you. Please e-mail your feedback to newsletters@smarttech.com.

THIS MONTH'S POLL

Do you use the SMART Exchange™ website?

[Vote now](#)

NANCY'S NOTES

Evolution or Revolution?



We always have a choice in how we do things. Do we do things slowly and let the outcome evolve over time? Or is it better to get on with change quickly? Human nature is always a factor to consider – sometimes it works to our benefit to speed things up, while other times it conspires to slow things down.

As we think about the adoption of technology products in education, these and other factors are playing out around the world. Some jurisdictions have fully committed, and they are on the path to 100 percent adoption in all grade levels and subjects. Others are more cautious in their adoption and have prioritized only certain grades and subjects.

A key area with some level of interest for everyone is digital resources. What resources will teachers and students use in the classroom and at home? How will those resources be made available so that subscriptions and copyrights are respected?

We know it makes a world of difference for already busy teachers if they have resources available that they can either customize or use as is. That's why you'll see a continuing commitment from SMART not only to aggregate the resources that teachers wish to share but also to create great ready-to-use resources. We're working closely with content-creation companies to ensure their content is customized for our products or that it works well with them.

I can see that the movement toward a new way of teaching and learning is gathering steam globally. Teachers are ready, students are eager, parents are supportive, administrators are willing and funding is available. Important tools, such as Internet connectivity and bandwidth, are already in place. And this bodes well for a more rapid transformation.

Whether you think of it as evolution or revolution is up to you.

Nancy Knowlton is the CEO and co-founder of SMART Technologies.

SMART Software and Content Accreditation Program



The **SMART Software and Content Accreditation Program** includes 373 multimedia and software titles from 59 companies. The program recognizes titles based on their level of compatibility with SMART products – standard, premium and elite.

Consider using these SMART-accredited titles that are compatible with the SMART Response™ interactive response system or SMART Table™ interactive learning center.

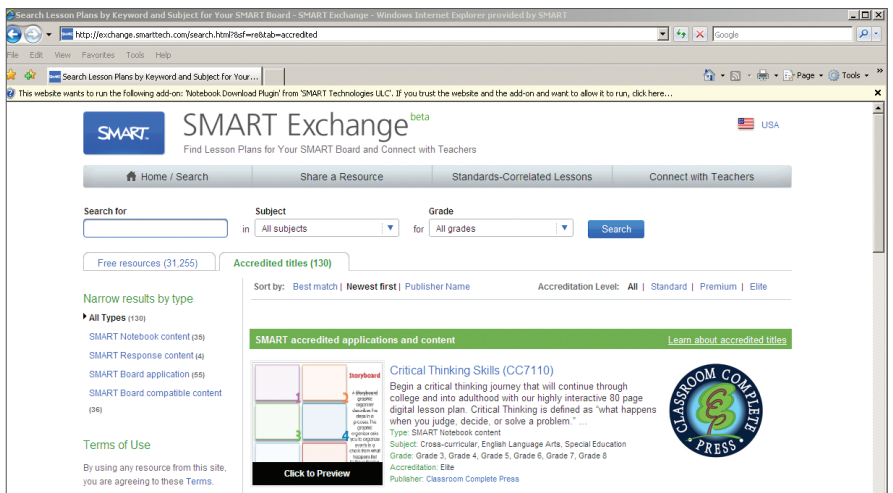
Study Island

by Archipelago Learning
Fully integrated with the SMART Response system, Study Island's online programs help you teach and review concepts related to your state's curriculum standards. Integrated lessons – many of which include videos – individualize student learning with engaging instructional content tied to each topic.

ReactTackles for the SMART Table

by Sherston America
ReactTackles encourages students with learning disabilities to communicate and use fine motor skills as they develop their mouse, keyboard, interactive whiteboard, switch and screen skills.

Digital Content at Your Fingertips



Having access to a database of high-quality digital content for all subjects and grade levels is essential for providing your students with the best education.

We try to ensure you have quick and easy access to ready-made digital content that you can use with your SMART products. And the **SMART Exchange website** is your one-stop destination for exactly that. New content is continually being added to the SMART Exchange website, so you can be sure there will always be new lesson activities, question sets, applications, activities, Gallery collections, images, videos, web pages and more.

It's also important that the non-SMART content you use is compatible with the SMART products in your classroom. That's why we've created the **SMART Software and Content Accreditation Program (SCAP)**. Formerly called the SMART Software Accreditation Program, the updated and relaunched SCAP is more comprehensive to meet the needs of you and your students. The program grants accreditation to content and software products that are integrated with SMART products, including the **SMART Board interactive whiteboard**, the **SMART Table**, the **SMART Response system** and **SMART Notebook software**.

A quick search of the SMART Exchange website produces a wealth of high-quality multimedia content and software titles from well-known education publishers, software developers and multimedia designers such as **Pearson**, **Scholastic** and **Nelson Education**.

You can be sure that any SMART-accredited software and content titles on the SMART Exchange website will work well with your SMART products and will be more interactive and easier to use with your SMART Board interactive whiteboard than with a standard projector and computer setup.

Programs like SCAP ensure that relevant content continues to be developed for your SMART products, so you'll always have high-quality material to use in your classroom. **Visit the SMART Exchange website** to see all the available SCAP titles.



1:1 eLearning Environment

SMART and Intel® are working together to offer a comprehensive 1:1 teaching and learning environment for K–6 students by combining SMART education solutions with the Intel Learning Series. At the heart of the Intel Learning Series is the Intel-powered classmate PC. SMART's integrated hardware and software products work together with the Intel Learning Series to deliver 1:1 eLearning, where each student has an Intel-powered classmate PC that works with **SMART Classroom Suite™ interactive learning software**. At the core of SMART's education solutions are **SMART Board interactive whiteboards**, **SMART Notebook software** and the **SMART Exchange website**. All of these products work seamlessly together to help you deliver 1:1 eLearning, increase teacher and student collaboration, support project-based learning and accelerate the learning cycle.

Watch a video of a school in Liverpool, England, that is using this 1:1 eLearning solution. To find out how you can start this program at your school, visit smarttech.com/integratedclassroom.

Visit SMART at FETC or TCEA in 2011

Visit the SMART booth at the Florida Education Technology Conference (FETC) or the Texas Computer Education Association (TCEA) Convention and Exposition for scheduled tours, presentations and product demonstrations. You'll learn more about our latest products, programs and resources, including the new **SMART Board 800 series interactive whiteboard**, a next-generation series that will provide the most natural and intuitive user experience yet on a SMART Board interactive whiteboard. Find out more about this new SMART Board interactive whiteboard in the Product Spotlight on pages **6 and 7**.

FETC

January 31–February 3, 2011
Orange County Convention Center
Orlando, Florida
SMART booth 1101

TCEA

February 7–11, 2011
Austin Convention Center
Austin, Texas
SMART booth 1431

FEATURE ARTICLE

Getting from "Huh?" to "Aha!"



Most teachers have at least one – a lesson topic that poses a perennial challenge, either because students consider it boring or they find the concept too difficult to fully grasp. Sometimes it's a combination of both. [Read the full article](#).

[Rate this article](#) ★

SMART Notebook Lesson Activities



Find a comprehensive database of **K–12 lesson activities** on the SMART Exchange website. The activities, many of which are standards correlated, are created by classroom teachers or SMART's team of curriculum resource developers.

Try one of the following SMART Notebook lesson activities in your language arts, science or history class.

Sight Word Study

Kindergarten and first-grade students can get an introduction to or review of high-frequency words.

Story Stage 1 – Planning Stories

Developed by SMART and Scholastic, this lesson activity is designed to help third-grade language arts students learn how stories can be planned and organized.

Planets

Fourth-grade science students can learn about the phases of the moon, the relative size and location of the planets, why we have seasons and what causes day and night.

Problem Solving: Checking Procedures

Math students in grades 7–9 can solve a problem using a conventional method and then check the accuracy of their solution by working backward from their answer.

[Rate this column](#) ★

SMART Response Question Sets



Find a database of **SMART Response question sets** on the SMART Exchange. The majority of the questions are correlated to state and provincial curriculum standards.

Try one of the following SMART Response question sets in your next math, social studies or language arts class.

Practicing with SMART Response

If you've come back to your classroom with new SMART Response remotes (or clickers), this is a great activity designed to help your students practice using them. The activity includes all types of questions available for the SMART Response system.

Ordinals to 31

K–3 math students can test their knowledge of ordinal numbers.

United States Geography Quiz

Social studies students in grades 4–6 can test their ability to identify the U.S. states.

Comparing Poetry

Tenth-grade language arts students can test their ability to understand the ideas and descriptive language in the poems, "Dreamers" and "Anthem for Doomed Youth."

[Rate this column](#) ★

Learn How to Use SMART Notebook to Create Your Own Digital Content

We offer a variety of training events to help you use your SMART products to their fullest. With complimentary online events or on-location training, you can always find something that suits your time and budget. Because we're highlighting content in this issue of the newsletter, you can find some of the training sessions we offer on SMART Notebook software to create your own professional-looking lessons. Training is suitable for all skill levels. Visit our website for more information about our [online](#) and [on-location](#) training events.

Creating SMART Notebook Lessons for Dummies®

This booklet is a quick reference on everything you need to know to create engaging and interactive SMART Notebook lessons for your students. *Creating SMART Notebook Lessons for Dummies* will help you get started with SMART Notebook software and introduce you to its many great features.

The book explains

- The components of a lesson activity
- Creative lessons that use the pen tool
- Creative ways to display your lessons
- Keywords and how to make your lesson content searchable
- Tips for creating successful lessons

The books come in packs of 10 and can be ordered from an authorized SMART reseller. [Find a reseller](#) in your area.

SMART SHOWCASE SCHOOL PROFILE

Digital Curriculum Leads to Sustained Student Engagement at Irons Middle School



The backpacks of students at Irons Middle School are no longer filled with heavy textbooks. This year, the school has implemented CSCOPE® – an online curriculum system developed by the Texas Education Service Center Curriculum Collaborative. [Read the full article.](#)

[Rate this article](#) ★

Subscribe to the *EDCompass* Blog!

Throughout the years, *EDCompass* newsletter has grown into a well-known and sought-after resource for educators using SMART products, and because of your interest and dedication to the newsletter, we're expanding it to include a blog. The recently launched *EDCompass* blog gives you even more of your favorites from the newsletter, plus new and relevant columns and articles that will offer ideas and resources for teaching using your SMART products – while inspiring ideas of your own.

The *EDCompass* newsletter that you're familiar with and receive monthly won't change. But now, by subscribing to the RSS, you'll be notified whenever new articles and resources are posted to the *EDCompass* blog throughout the week, so you can be sure you're always receiving the latest news and resources from SMART.

Visit the [EDCompass blog](#)
Subscribe now!

Become a SMART Exemplary Educator



Would you like to join the global network of SMART Exemplary Educators who are transforming teaching and learning with the help of SMART? This popular program brings together teachers, technology coordinators and administrators who lead the way in using SMART products to engage students and improve learning outcomes.

Through March 31, 2011, you're invited to complete a SMART Exemplary Educator program application that highlights your commitment to developing effective education practices and sharing them with other educators. You will also need to provide a reference letter from a school administrator and a video of yourself presenting part of a SMART Notebook lesson that you created.

[Learn more](#) about the program pathways and how you can apply to join this group of talented and dedicated educators.

It's Not too Late – Suite Talk for a Chance to Win

There is still time to participate in our Suite Talk Video Contest. We're calling all educators who have been using SMART Classroom Suite interactive learning software to submit their favorite SMART Notebook lesson for a chance to win one of five SMART products! The lesson should include an embedded video of 2–3 minutes showing how you use SMART Classroom Suite software to improve learning experiences and make class time more collaborative and productive.

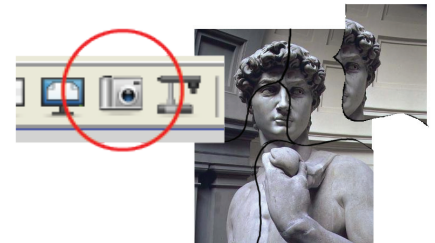
Upload your lesson with the embedded video to the SMART Exchange website by February 10, 2011, at 11:59 p.m. (MT). [Find out how now!](#)



Jeff's SMART Notebook Tips



Each month in this column, you'll find a new tip from Jeff Taylor, Product Manager for SMART Notebook software. In this issue, Jeff explains how to use the Screen Capture tool to make your own puzzle pieces in SMART Notebook software.



- Select an image you would like to use to create your own puzzle and add it to your SMART Notebook page
- Click the pen tool in the toolbar and use it to draw puzzle pieces directly on the image
- Open the Screen Capture toolbar by clicking on the camera icon in the toolbar. This will bring up four screen capture options to choose from – marquee, window, full screen and freehand. To ensure your captured images stay their original size, set the page zoom to 100% by clicking View, Zoom, 100%.
- Now, click the freehand option – the fourth option – in the Screen Capture toolbar. The pointer changes to cross hairs. You can now trace over the pen lines on your image to create your own puzzle pieces.

Download the latest version of SMART Notebook software [here](#).

[Rate this column](#) ★

Fast Facts



- **Completely integrated** – The 885ix features a powerful SMART Board interactive whiteboard, an ultra-short-throw projector that virtually eliminates shadows and glare, a modular Pen Tray that enables students to seamlessly work together, and an extended control panel that allows you to control the system and manage your classroom technology
- **Naturally collaborative** – The 885ix offers an intuitive multitouch experience, which means two users can work together simultaneously, moving objects, writing in digital ink, erasing and performing mouse functions
- **Seamlessly interactive** – Users can instantly begin working together without switching to a separate multiuser mode or being confined to separate areas of the interactive whiteboard surface. And, both users can write, erase, move objects and perform mouse functions independently of each other.
- **Built-in object awareness** – You can switch between using your finger, a pen or an eraser without having to press buttons, access menus or replace tools in the Pen Tray – the 885ix recognizes what you're doing and switches automatically
- **Touch gesture-enabled*** – Use touch gestures to toss, rotate and zoom in on objects and interact with content within SMART Notebook software. The 885ix also supports touch gestures in Windows® 7 and Snow Leopard operating systems.

SMART Board 885ix Interactive Whiteboard System – In a Class of Its Own

Michelle Khatib believes that technology should help students reach their goals, not stand in the way. As the director of educational technology services at **Chinook's Edge School Division** in Innisfail, Alberta, Khatib looks for classroom technology that helps teachers and students naturally explore concepts and ideas through collaboration and interaction.

And the latest technology product the school district is using to support their education vision is the **SMART Board 885ix interactive whiteboard system**, one of three models available in the new 800 series.

Intuitive and easy to use

The 885ix is designed to erase the boundaries between students and learning, while still providing the same intuitive and easy-to-use technology for which SMART is known. And for Khatib, the system's hands-on and collaborative capabilities sold her on its potential in the classroom.

"After hearing about the new features, such as gesturing, touch recognition, ease of use and dual-user features, we knew that this was an opportunity that we couldn't pass up on," says Khatib, whose district is participating in a pilot program for the 800 series.

"The increased engagement and usability of these boards enhances classroom engagement, usability and makes technology much more seamless in the classroom," she says.

Multitouch and touch gestures

The 885ix enables two users to interact with lesson content at the same time – using a finger or a pen. Khatib says this feature increases students' and teachers' ability to collaborate and interact with lessons, because there's no need to switch modes or work within a confined area on the interactive whiteboard.

In addition to multiuser capability, the system features touch gestures, which make it easier than ever to interact with lesson content – you can toss, rotate and zoom in on objects, or access other applications on your Windows 7 or Snow Leopard operating system. Khatib says the touch gestures "are very intuitive for the user, but at the same time, they enhance the user experience."

Multitouch and touch gestures are just two ways that the 885ix is erasing the boundaries between students and learning. You can find out more about the 800 series by visiting smarttech.com/800series or by [watching our video](#).



*Feature availability: The SMART Board 800 series interactive whiteboard supports multiuser writing and common multitouch gestures currently recognized in Microsoft Windows 7 and Mac Snow Leopard operating systems. SMART Notebook collaborative learning software will support certain features, such as freestyle interaction, touch gestures and full object awareness, upon the release of updated software (SMART Notebook 10.7), expected by March 2011.

Ask Sap



Photo and Photoshop by: Jon Pernul.

We asked Saptarshi (Sap) Basu, Senior Product Manager, how the new SMART Board 800 series interactive whiteboard helps teachers make lessons more collaborative and compelling.

EDCompass How does the 800 series help students work collaboratively?

Sap The 800 series is meant for two people to interact together. If two students are working on a math problem and approaching it in different ways, they can talk to and learn from each other. And the new features, like object awareness, enable this further – let's say you and I are both writing, but I need to erase. You don't have to wait because I've changed the mode to the eraser. I can be writing while you are erasing. I can be writing while you are writing. Or, I can be moving an object with my finger while you are writing with a pen. Not all interactive whiteboards are like this.

EDCompass What is one of your favorite features?

Sap The gesture capability. Gestures are so natural nowadays that people expect them everywhere. They think, "If it works on my phone, it should definitely work on a 77" (195.6 cm) or 87" (221 cm) interactive whiteboard." When people use the 800 series for the first time, they'll try to zoom in or do other gestures, and it will happen. That expectation is there, and we've made it a reality.

EDCompass Are there connections with other products that make the 800 series more versatile?

Sap The touch-enabled 800 series is fully compatible with Windows 7 and Snow Leopard. You can use all the Windows 7 two-finger gestures on apps like Microsoft Surface® Collage or Microsoft Surface Globe.

EDCompass Do you think teachers will see the 800 series as a way of getting more students up at the interactive whiteboard?

Sap Absolutely. Teachers often have a queue at the interactive whiteboard. Now you can double the number of students who can use it. Plus, with the enhanced features of the 800 series, it has become more intuitive to work on a SMART Board interactive whiteboard than ever before.

[Rate this product spotlight](#) ★

An Ideal Platform for Innovative Content



We asked Will Botterman, a program manager with SMART's Ecosystem group, what makes the SMART Board 800 series interactive whiteboard such an ideal platform for supporting exciting, inventive software applications.

"Touch is all the rage now, with the iPad and iPhone. Developers are really hungry for creating multitouch applications, but there are very few large-format displays that enable touch recognition like we do. With the 800 series, we have multiple points of touch, so developers now have a really exciting large display that they can work with. If a developer gets really creative, all of the menu structures and all of the events that happen within a software application can be mapped to some sort of gesture. And now, for example, a user never really has to go back to the menu to find 'edit copy'. The power user would know that a finger on the object plus a pen striking through it does that gesture."

Up Next

If you're a science teacher, you won't want to miss out on the March issue, which will be filled with science resources, ideas and best practices to help you teach using your SMART products.

Where Ideas Spread



Discover the new **EDCompass blog** – it's the perfect place to find, comment on and share ideas about using SMART products for teaching and learning.

Subscribe to the blog today to find posts on the latest education news, resources and inspiring ideas for using SMART products in the classroom.

You'll find articles on a variety of topics, including

- Opinions from experts in education and classroom technology
- Experiences of educators from around the world
- The latest resources on the SMART Exchange website
- Spotlights on new education products and programs

Visit smartedcompassblog.com to subscribe today!

Join SMART Exchange – It's Quick, Easy and Free!

Membership is coming to the **SMART Exchange website** in February 2011! By becoming a member of this free website, you'll be connected to a dynamic and growing community of SMART product users and have access to over 50,000 high-quality learning resources.

SMART Exchange brings together inspired educators who share ideas, lessons and tips for using SMART products. By registering, you'll be able to share and update your own resources, access professionally created interactive content and gain valuable insight into using SMART products in the classroom.

Visit exchange.smarttech.com to learn more.

